

The Role of the MUI Infokom Commission in Incorporating Religious Moderation Through Social Media to Build Harmonization of Religious Life

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ABSTRACT

This research examines the role of the MUI Infocom Commission in promoting religious moderation through social media in order to create harmonization of religious life. By involving literature as a research method, the research focus is focused on the role of MUI Infocom in disseminating information related to religious moderation. The results show that the MUI Infocom Commission has a strategic role in managing moderation-based content on social media. In an era where the internet and social media have a big influence, this research details how Infokom MUI contributes to shaping understanding of religious moderation and creating harmony amidst religious diversity in Indonesia. Through this approach, it is hoped that this research can contribute to understanding the important role of the MUI Infocom Commission in building harmonization of religious life through social media. The importance of moderated content on social media is actually to achieve a humanist Islam and the important role of MUI infocom in disseminating information about MUI's work and activities to the wider community, packaging it in peaceful content in order to form a moderate Islam by packaging each content as interesting and creative. Meanwhile, the MUI's task is as khodimul ummah (serving the ummah), protecting the ummah from various possible hoax information, as well as shodiqul lawah (government partner) in socializing and educating the public with constructive information and communication.

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INTRODUCTION

The development of the world of communication, especially through social media and the internet, has had a significant impact on the way individuals obtain information and interact. It was noted in research in 2014 that there was a shift in audience behavior which showed that more time was spent on the internet and social media platforms compared to traditional media. The decline in dominance of traditional media is triggered by society's increasing need for social connectivity, which is now increasingly being met through online interactions.

The growth of social media has not only created a public arena for communication, but has also had a significant impact on the way individuals convey messages and views. This openness, however, brings negative consequences, especially the increasing tendency of hate speech with various complex problems. This

phenomenon has become the center of attention, especially regarding negative content spread on various social media platforms.

Kominfo noted that complaints of negative content on social media reached 500,000 in 2019, with Facebook and Instagram being the platforms with the most negative content. The challenges in managing public interactions on social media require special attention to communication etiquette and word choice to prevent misunderstandings and uphold communication ethics.

In this context, exploring the impact and challenges of communication in the digital era becomes increasingly important. Efforts to maintain a balance between openness in communication and the need to control negative content are challenges that need to be overcome to create a healthy and harmonious communication environment in a society that is increasingly connected digitally.

METHOD

The library study research method is used as an approach to explore in-depth understanding of issues relevant to the research topic. In this context, the research will investigate concepts related to religious moderation and the role of the MUI Infocom Commission in promoting it through social media to build harmonization of religious life. Literature studies provide a solid framework of theoretical understanding, allowing researchers to involve various sources such as journal articles, books, news, and other related literature. Critical analysis of this literature will provide in-depth insights, enrich the theoretical basis of the research and provide a basis for constructing strong findings.

Data collection in the library study method is carried out through documentation techniques, namely by searching, collecting and reviewing library materials that are relevant to the research focus. This process includes transcripts, books, agendas, newspapers, magazines, and other literary sources. An in-depth analysis of the literature content will help construct a cohesive framework of thought, develop research arguments, and detail the contribution of the MUI Infocom Commission in advocating for religious moderation through social media to strengthen harmony in religious life.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. History of MUI

The Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) was founded on March 7 1975 as an institution that accommodates Indonesian Muslim ulama and scholars. The establishment of the MUI was carried out in an atmosphere of desire to unite the thoughts and views of Islamic scholars in Indonesia, as well as in response to developments in political and social situations that required direction from religious leaders. The MUI's main goal is to maintain the unity of the Muslim community, provide religious guidance, and contribute to national development.

The MUI has an important role in providing fatwas (Islamic legal opinions) regarding religious and social issues in Indonesia. Apart from that, the MUI also functions as an advisor to the government in matters of policy related to Islamic values. This organization is also involved in various social and educational activities to advance Indonesian society in an Islamic way.

During the Reformation era, MUI experienced significant changes. In 2000, MUI underwent restructuring to increase transparency and accountability. MUI has also begun to expand cooperation with various institutions and organizations to face the challenges and demands of the times. In its development, the MUI remains one of the recognized Islamic authorities in Indonesia.

MUI not only focuses on the internal religious affairs of Muslims, but is also active in maintaining inter-religious harmony. MUI is involved in interfaith dialogue and seeks to bridge differences that may arise. With this role, MUI contributes to harmony and tolerance between religious communities in Indonesia.

In the midst of the dynamic development of modern society, MUI continues to be faced with new challenges. This organization seeks to adapt to technological developments and global dynamics without losing the roots of Islamic values. By proactively responding to changing times, MUI continues to play a role in guiding Indonesian Muslims and participating in building a country based on religious values.

To date, the Indonesian Ulema Council has undergone several national deliberations, and has experienced several changes in General Chair, namely:

- 1977 – 1981 Prof. Dr. Hamka
- 1981 – 1983 KH. Syukri Ghozali
- 1985 – 1998 KH. Hasan Basri
- 1998 – 2000 Prof. KH. Ali Yafie
- 2000 – 2014 KH. M. Sahal Mahfudz
- 2014 – 2015 Prof. Dr. HM. Din Syamsuddin
- 2015 – 2020 Prof. Dr. KH. Ma'ruf Amen

2020 – Present KH. Miftachul Akhyar

The first, second, third and fifth Supreme Leaders of the MUI have died and completed their obligations. Meanwhile, the fourth and last two still continue to serve as leaders of this assembly of ulama.

2. Social Media

Social media is a concept in the digital world that allows individuals and groups to interact, share information and build relationships online. These platforms include various types, such as social networks, blogs, forums, and media sharing applications. Social media allows users to engage in various forms of activity, from sharing photos to discussing certain topics

Social media is not only a means of communication, but also acts as a forum for expression and creativity. Users can share their thoughts, ideas and daily activities. Apart from that, social media is also a fast information channel that can be accessed by many people throughout the world. Other functions include the creation of online communities, learning, and influencing opinions and trends.

Social networks such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram have become very popular among social media users. They facilitate user engagement in various activities, including sharing visual content, statuses, and thoughts. Additionally, platforms like YouTube provide space for users to upload and watch videos. Blogs have also become an important part of social media, allowing individuals to express opinions, share experiences, and convey information in more depth.

Social media has positive impacts such as expanding social networks, making communication easier, and providing opportunities to share information. However, there are also negative impacts such as the spread of false information, threatened privacy, and the potential for negative online behavior to develop. Social media users need to be wise in using it to maintain a balance between benefits and risks.

Challenges in the world of social media involve handling inappropriate content, protecting privacy, and trying to minimize negative impacts. Social media continues to evolve with the emergence of new platforms, updated algorithms, and changing usage trends. Technological developments and developments in user behavior play a role in changing the dynamics of social media over time.

3. Religious Moderation

In Islamic teachings, the concept of moderation is represented by the term *al-Wasathiyah* which is known as a synonym for the word moderate, as written in QS.al-Baqarah [2]: 143. *Al-Wasath* itself carries the meaning of the best and most perfect concept. This understanding is reinforced by the hadith which confirms that the best situation is in the middle. This means that moderate Islam not only teaches tolerance and mutual respect, but also balances beliefs in the truth of each religion and school of thought. With this approach, each party can accept decisions with a cool head without engaging in anarchic actions.

Moderate Islam not only emphasizes moderation in religion, but also in dealing with differences, both in the realm of religion and sect. An attitude of tolerance and respect for differences is the main basis. By adhering to the truth of each religion and school of thought, moderate Muslims are able to live their religious life with harmony and mutual understanding. This creates an atmosphere conducive to dialogue and cooperation between religious communities.

The middle path represented by religious moderation has a central role in maintaining balance and harmony in Indonesia, which is rich in religious diversity. By embracing this diversity, religious moderation creates harmony and understanding between religious communities. This is in accordance with the spirit of diversity and tolerance which is an integral part of Indonesian society.

Religious moderation also promotes a wise attitude in accepting decisions. By upholding the principle of the middle way, moderate Muslims can respond to differences with a cool head, avoiding involvement in anarchic actions or detrimental conflicts. This attitude builds a strong foundation for cooperation and harmony between religious communities.

More broadly, religious moderation contributes to forming a society based on tolerance and mutual respect. In the multicultural context of Indonesia, religious moderation is the foundation for peaceful and inclusive social life. By understanding the essence of moderation, Muslims can become agents of positive change in creating a society that upholds the values of diversity and harmony.

4. Harmonization

According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), harmonization is defined as an effort or process of seeking and establishing harmony, harmony, or a harmonious whole between different elements. In the context of religious or community life, harmonization includes efforts to create harmony, balance and togetherness between various elements or groups that have differences. The harmonization process aims to avoid conflict, build mutual understanding, and achieve harmony in social life. In various contexts,

harmonization can be applied to aspects such as interpersonal relationships, music, colors, or even in organizational and social fields. Basically, the concept of harmonization seeks to create conditions where different elements can work together in a balanced and complementary manner.

Harmonization has a crucial role in achieving healthy and stable social relations. Within a community or society, harmonization creates an environment where differences, be they culture, religion or background, can coexist without causing detrimental conflict. This harmony allows for the formation of tolerance, mutual understanding and close cooperation between diverse individuals.

In music, harmonization refers to the unification of different sounds into one harmonious whole. This involves selecting appropriate chords and a suitable melody so as to create a unified, beautiful sound. Harmonization in music also reflects the order and combination of musical elements, adding a deep emotional and aesthetic dimension.

In an organizational context, harmonization refers to efforts to align various parts or departments so that they work together efficiently and effectively. This balance can have a positive impact on productivity, innovation and a conducive working atmosphere. Organizations that implement harmonization well tend to be more adaptive to change and have positive relationships between members.

To achieve harmonization, open communication, mutual understanding and a willingness to find a middle ground between differences are needed. This process also involves adjustment, compromise, and being open to diverse perspectives. By implementing these strategies, harmonization can become the basis for sustainability and progress, creating an environment that supports positive growth and shared prosperity.

The MUI Infocom Commission, through its efforts to promote religious moderation through social media, plays an important role in creating harmonization of religious life. By facilitating dialogue and a balanced exchange of information, harmonization can be built between religious communities, creating a unified environment

The role of the MUI Infocom Commission also includes harmonizing integration in social media communications. In creating content that supports religious moderation, these efforts can become a bridge to build understanding and tolerance between religious communities. Harmonization formed through social media can strengthen the values of moderation, making online interactions a means of strengthening harmonious religious life.

In the journey to build religious moderation, harmonization is considered a foundation that supports stable religious life. The MUI Infocom Commission can play a strategic role in educating and guiding people through social media to achieve harmony and balance in religion. Harmonization is the foundation for tolerance, respect and cooperation between religious communities.

The title reflects the ultimate goal being pursued, namely building harmonization of religious life through social media by utilizing religious moderation. The MUI Infocom Commission as the main actor can direct its efforts to achieve this goal. By linking moderation and harmonization, it creates space for understanding interaction and harmony between religious communities.

In the context of social media use, harmonization is the main instrument in carrying out the mission of religious moderation. The MUI Infocom Commission can utilize social media as a tool to create harmonization among religious communities. Through the dissemination of content that promotes moderation and balance of views, social media becomes an effective means of achieving the goal of harmonization in religious life.

CONCLUSION

Da'wah in the modern era has become more effective through the use of social media compared to traditional forums, because it allows people to access it with flexibility, anytime and anywhere. This is what encourages preachers to design studies which are packaged in various creative content on the MUI Infokom platform. The role of MUI's Information and Communication (Infokom) sector is very important and strategic, with its ability to significantly disseminate information about MUI's work and activities. As khodimul ummah, MUI is responsible for protecting the people from potential hoax information, and as Shodiqul Hukumah, being a government partner in socializing and educating the public through constructive information and communication, achieving harmonization in effective intercultural communication.

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